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REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 13-16, and 18-28 remain pending in this application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the above-identified claims are allowable.

Claims 1-10, 13-16, and 18-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,892,518 to Cupp et al. (hereinafter "Cupp") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,542,923 Ensminger et al. (hereinafter "Ensminger").

Claim 1 recites a port comprising a substantially "*F-shaped flow element* including first and second arms extending from a trunk with the first lumen extending through the first arm to the trunk and the second lumen extending through the second arm to the trunk, the first and second lumens being separated from one another within the trunk, the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm *substantially parallel to the trunk* and a second portion extending substantially *parallel to the second arm*, wherein the first portion of the first arm is *separated from the housing by a gap*."

Examiner states that Cupp discloses an F-shaped connector. (See 5/16/2007 Office Action, page 2, line 13). Applicants respectfully disagree. As indicated in the response to the previous Office Action, Cupp discloses a Y connector 107 that is entirely contained within port 13 – i.e., within the housing of port 13 which comprises a boot 21 and a cover 163 filled with a matrix of polyurethane. (See Cupp, col. 3, lines 41-44; col. 6, lines 52-58; FIGs. 2 and 3). The Y connecter 107, as made clear by its label, is clearly not F-shaped. Branches 151 and 153 of Y connector 107 are not substantially parallel as required by claim 1.

Examiner also states that Ensminger discloses an F-shaped connector. (See 5/16/2007 Office Action, page 3, line 3). Applicants respectfully disagree. Initially it is noted that Ensminger shows no connector F-shaped or otherwise beyond the port 117 formed in the housing. Specifically, the structure pointed to by the Examiner is entirely within the housing and includes no portion "*separated from the housing by a gap*," as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that even the structure pointed to by the Examiner is not substantially F-shaped as defined in the claim. In fact, the branches 151 and 153 are clearly non-parallel as

shown in Figs. 2 and 7. This relationship is further enhanced by the specification which refers to the connector 107 as a Y connector. (Col. 6, line 44).

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Cupp and Ensminger, taken either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a port comprising a substantially "*F-shaped flow element* including first and second arms extending from a trunk with the first lumen extending through the first arm to the trunk and the second lumen extending through the second arm to the trunk, the first and second lumens being separated from one another within the trunk, the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm *substantially parallel to the trunk* and a second portion extending *substantially parallel to the second arm*, wherein the first portion of the first arm is *separated from the housing by a gap*," as recited in claim 1 and that claim 1 is allowable. Because claims 2-10 depend from and, therefore, include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 13 recites a "dual well device" comprising "an F-shaped flow element including separate lumens independent of one another, the first lumen, when the flow element is in an operative configuration coupled to the housing, being fluidly connected to the first well and having an arm portion extending at a first angle relative to the axis and wherein, when in the operative configuration, the second lumen is fluidly connected to the second well and includes an arm portion extending at a second angle relative to the axis, the F-shaped flow element including a trunk enclosing trunk portions of the first and second lumens, the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm *substantially parallel to the trunk* and a second portion extending *substantially parallel to the second arm*, wherein the first portion of the first arm is *separated from the housing by a gap*."

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 is allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with reference to claim 1. Because claims 14-16 and 18 depend from and, therefore, include all the limitations of claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 19 recites a "method of infusing fluids into a patient" comprising "fluidly connecting each of the first and second catheter lumens to first and second flow element lumens of an F-shaped flow element, the first flow element lumen extending through a trunk of the

F-shaped flow element and through the first arm to fluidly connect to a first well of a dual well port and the second flow element lumen extending through the trunk and a second arm to fluidly connect to a second well of the port, wherein the first and second flow element lumens are separated from one another in the trunk, the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm *substantially parallel to the trunk* and a second portion extending *substantially parallel to the second arm*, wherein the first portion of the first arm is *separated from the housing by a gap*."

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with reference to claim 1. Because claims 20 and 21 depend from and, therefore, include all the limitations of claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 22 recites an "F-shaped connector for a dual well port" comprising a trunk including two arms where "a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm *substantially parallel to the trunk* and a second portion extending *substantially parallel to the second arm*, wherein the first portion of the first arm is *separated from the housing by a gap*."

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 is allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with reference to claim 1. Because claims 23-28 depend from and, therefore, include all the limitations of claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claims 1-10, 13-16, and 18-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 5,542,923 Ensminger et al. (hereinafter "Ensminger").

Claim 1 recites a port comprising a substantially "*F-shaped flow element* including first and second arms extending from a trunk with the first lumen extending through the first arm to the trunk and the second lumen extending through the second arm to the trunk, the first and second lumens being separated from one another within the trunk, the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm *substantially parallel to the trunk* and a second portion extending *substantially parallel to the second arm*, wherein the first portion of the first arm is *separated from the housing by a gap*."

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable for the same reasons stated above in

regard to the prior rejections. Because claims 2-10 depend from and, therefore, include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 13 recites a "dual well device" comprising "an F-shaped flow element including separate lumens independent of one another, the first lumen, when the flow element is in an operative configuration coupled to the housing, being fluidly connected to the first well and having an arm portion extending at a first angle relative to the axis and wherein, when in the operative configuration, the second lumen is fluidly connected to the second well and includes an arm portion extending at a second angle relative to the axis, the F-shaped flow element including a trunk enclosing trunk portions of the first and second lumens, the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm *substantially parallel to the trunk* and a second portion extending *substantially parallel to the second arm*, wherein the first portion of the first arm is *separated from the housing by a gap*."

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 is allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with reference to claim 1. Because claims 14-16 and 18 depend from and, therefore, include all the limitations of claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 19 recites a "method of infusing fluids into a patient" comprising "fluidly connecting each of the first and second catheter lumens to first and second flow element lumens of an F-shaped flow element, the first flow element lumen extending through a trunk of the F-shaped flow element and through the first arm to fluidly connect to a first well of a dual well port and the second flow element lumen extending through the trunk and a second arm to fluidly connect to a second well of the port, wherein the first and second flow element lumens are separated from one another in the trunk, the first arm including a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm *substantially parallel to the trunk* and a second portion extending *substantially parallel to the second arm*, wherein the first portion of the first arm is *separated from the housing by a gap*."

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with reference to claim 1. Because claims 20 and 21 depend from and, therefore, include all the limitations of claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also

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allowable.

Claim 22 recites an "F-shaped connector for a dual well port" comprising a trunk including two arms where "a first portion extending from an intersection with the second arm *substantially parallel to the trunk* and a second portion extending *substantially parallel to the second arm*, wherein the first portion of the first arm is *separated from the housing by a gap*."

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 is allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with reference to claim 1. Because claims 23-28 depend from and, therefore, include all the limitations of claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

In view of the remarks submitted above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present case is in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed, and a favorable action on the merits is thus earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 16, 2007

By: _____
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